

# Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

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## Passover Points

### Fast Of The First Born

Erev Pesach is a Fast Day for first-born Jewish males. This is a form of thanksgiving to God for having spared the Jewish B'chorim on the eve of the Exodus from Egypt, when all Egyptian first-born were slain. A B'chor may be excused from fasting if he completes the study of a volume of the Talmud by the eve of Passover. Since most men are too occupied with the cares of daily duty to find time for so much study, it is customary for the B'chorim to gather in the synagogue at the morning service on Erev Pesach, where the Rabbi makes the 'Siyum' and includes all the B'chorim present so that they may be excused from the Fast.

Rabbi Margolis will conduct the 'Siyum' for the first-born in the Beth Hamidrash of the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, King Edward Avenue, on Friday morning at the service which begins at 7 a.m. All Ottawa B'chorim are urged to be present.

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### Housewives' Note

'Eruv Tavshilin' must be made next Thursday in order to permit the housewife to cook and bake on Yomtov for Shabbos which follows close upon the holiday. Special prayers are pronounced in this special ceremony, and are to be found in any Siddur or Machzor.

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### Concerning Chometz

'B'dikas Chometz'—the ceremonial of searching out the Chometz must be performed by the head of the household no later than immediately after sundown on Thursday evening. The last Chometz meal must be concluded by Friday morning at ten o'clock. At this time Chometz must be burned, and no sign or vestige to remain for the rest of the holiday. As to the close of the holiday, it is advisable not to eat bread until Sunday, April 24th, to be sure that it was not baked on the Passover.

Jews have until Friday morning, at the very latest, to arrange with the Rabbi for the sale of Chometz. It is imperative to see the Rabbi personally and to sign the authorization for the Chometz to be sold through customary rabbinic agency.

## Passover

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### Schedule

#### Siyum B'chorim

Rabbi Margolis will conduct a Siyum B'chorim by concluding a volume of Talmud in the Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, King Edward Ave., at the Service, Friday morning, April 15, at 7.00 A.M.

#### B'dikas Chometz

Thursday, April 14.....At Sundown

#### Erev Pesach

Kindling of Lights.....6.30 p.m.

Evening Service.....6.45 p.m.

#### Pesach Morning Services

All Synagogues.....8.30 a.m.

#### Sermon Topics

RABBI WILLIAM MARGOLIS  
will preach

#### Saturday Morning

Agudath Achim Synagogue, Rideau  
Street

#### "HOW TO ANSWER QUESTIONS"

#### Sunday Morning

Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, King  
Edward Ave.

#### "WHAT MAKES A PEOPLE FREE?"

#### Friday Morning

Machzikei Hadath Synagogue,  
Murray Street  
"THE JEWISH SONG OF WAR"

#### Saturday Morning YIZKOR

B'nai Jacob Synagogue, James St.

#### "HOW TO REMEMBER THE DEAD"

## The Song of Moses

My song, arise in majesty,  
Ascend in peerless brilliancy!  
Horse and host in sea's depths laid  
Proved Egypt's gods could bring no aid.

My strength and song is to the Lord,  
Salvation gleams through all His word.  
My eyes here catch that future sight,  
The Temple on Moriah's height.

The Lord made war, defence of right;  
His face crowned night with wondrous  
light.

Bewildered, blinded, Pharaoh's host  
Stamp'd no foot on this dry coast.

The officers of triple crown,  
Those numbered first in earth's renown,  
All perished like some sinking stone,  
When parted floods rolled back to one.

What lustful eyes, closed in death's sleep,  
Have now their graves in that Red deep!  
"I'll overtake," the proud foe said,  
"I'll capture all, alive or dead."

The breath of God touched glassy walls,  
Two floods approached — tremendous  
falls;  
The bottom held an army dead,  
As helpless there as sunken lead.

Who is Thy like, most glorious King?  
Thy holy name the seraphs sing;  
Thy praise diffuses trembling awe,  
Thy hand suspends all cosmic law.

Suspends, restores; for nature's law  
Restored the floods. Thy people saw  
Themselves preserved a holy race,  
To build on earth Thy shrine of grace.

Unchangeably, Thy house shall shine  
In holy beauty, grace divine;  
Thy kingdom shall endure for aye,  
Nor ages bring one tint's decay.



# The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin

Published every Friday by  
The Ottawa Jewish Community Council.  
William Margolis, Rabbi

A. J. Freiman.....President  
C. Caplan.....Vice-president  
Thomas Sachs.....Vice-president  
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All correspondence to the Ottawa Jewish Bulletin should be sent to P.O. Box 50, Ottawa. To insure attention all material must reach this address before Monday of the week of publication date.

## SOLEMN SEDER THOUGHTS

If, indeed, it is inevitable that History repeat itself, would that we could thumb its 'ample page, rich with the spoils of time, and choose for repetition, those inspiring and delightful chapters that reflect the forward-moving evolution of Man. But History is in base mood. It is repeating, with too passionate emphasis, those inhuman events in the life of humanity which make one wonder whether the happy events ever really happened. The rise of Democracy, the advancement of science and literature, the abolition of slavery—did these really occur, or were they mere mirages, imagined by hopeful historians in the blinding, parching desert of a still extant world of barbarism ignorance and hate?

The Seder and the Hagadah will reflect a curious yet terrifying anomaly this year. The Prussian Pharaoh of our day is riding high—higher than ever. His hordes of Huns, his horse and chariot of inglorious glory are not drowning in the Red Sea of his creation. On the contrary, through a Red Sea of hate and terror he is advancing his triumphant goose-step, widening his borders, multiplying his slaves by millions, and emerging proud, victorious and unscathed. In this new era of Pharaohism, it is the Jewish slaves who are being engulfed en masse in the Red Sea of blood. The plagues of darkness, pestilence and death are afflicting the Jew—afflicting the Jew who, on thousands of Seder nights, recalled those very plagues as they were visited upon the Arch-Pharaoh who was forced to grant us freedom!

'Avadim ha-yinu. . . Slaves were we in Egypt. . . Were, indeed! And what are millions of our brethren today, in Germany, Austria, Poland, Rumania, Hungary? What kind of a Seder will they have? What kind of 'Kashyoth' will their children ask? In Poland, our people have had no bread—not even Matzoh—for many countless nights. In Germany, every night for the past five years has been 'Koolo maror'—entirely bitter. In Austria—no need for salt water. Every moment and morsel of food is dipped and saturated in tears. Superfluous indeed would be the question of the Jewish child in Europe—'Mah nishtanah'—Why is this night different? For Seder night will be no different to European Jewry, from all other nights of recent years. Surely the bitterness will be no novelty. . .

What of us? And what of our Seder? Are we prepared to answer all the questions our children may ask? What if they confront us with this challenging query: 'Why do we rejoice over the liberation of the six hundred thousand Jews from Egypt, when ten times that number are enslaved today in Europe?' To properly

answer this overpowering 'Kashyah', we must clear up a few plagues on this side of the Atlantic.

A striking folk tale is told of a rustic Jewish farmer who lived far from the city and whose Jewish education was worse than neglected. Of course, he conducted the Seder for his family as conscientiously as he knew—though his errors in reading the Hagadah were as numerous as the words in it, and his understanding of the meanings, less than nothing. One Passover just prior to the Seder, our hero reached into an old closet for his Hagadah. He brought forth an old pamphlet—it was a Slichah service, instead of a Hagadah. But that made no difference to the rustic Israelite. He began to recite the service, laboriously, of course, but earnestly. Towards the end, he grew somewhat suspicious, for he missed the recitation of the 'Makoth'—the plagues. He knew that there must be plagues enumerated in the Hagadah. He read on, wondering. Then his face lighted up with joy. He had found them! Dipping his finger excitedly into his cup of wine, he began to call off the 'Makoth'—'Ashamnu, bagadnu, gazalnu dibarnu dofi!'

It is to smile, and yet to think. For these confessions of the 'Slichah' and of Yom Kippur do, after all, represent plagues in our lives. It is an anomalous trick we ascribe to contemporary History during these chaotic times, when Passover commemorates freedom and witnesses stupendous slavery. Yet, perhaps it is more than the distortion of Historic repetition. Our afflictions may have purpose. Perhaps they are occurring in Europe in order to warn and awaken us on this free continent, to the subtle plagues that threaten our own security, and blind us to our own responsibility.

'Ashamnu' is the plague of guilt—guilt for communal disintegration, the sin of which is cold indifference to Jewish communal needs. . .

'Bagadnu'—we may have been unfaithful to our leaders. Ours may have been the treachery of non-cooperation with those who are giving their lives for the honour and dignity of a unified Israel. . .

'Gazalnu'—we may have robbed our children of their due in Jewish education, of their precious hours and years of inspiration and faith, that they might grow up to a full measure of intellectual and spiritual consciousness. . . .

'Dibarnu dofi'—we may have spoken wrongly. We may have besmirched a name, made a carping criticism, spoiled the unity of thought, through our thoughtless words. . .

These possible plagues that consume from within, may have made us susceptible to the assaults of our enemies. Perhaps the plagues of Nazism, tyranny, persecution in Europe today are yet to be blessings in disguise.

We still have one classic answer to all questions. 'Sheb'chal yom va-yom omdim aleinu le-chaloseinu'. History records that every day in our national career, our enemies have wanted to destroy us. 'Ve-hakadosh Baruch hu matzileinu miyadam'. And the Almighty, Blessed be He, saves us from them. Surely He will bring us another Passover—a far happier one than this.

William Margolis



## A WORTHY THOUGHT

From our comfortable distance, the horrors of living in certain countries of Europe appear to be something far removed from our everyday lives on this safe side of the Atlantic. Today, in Canada, we are free and equal citizens of the realm. We follow our various businesses and occupations in the knowledge that law, order and good government, the fundamental bases of democracy, will continue to permit life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. But for the accidental fact of our parents having left the old country for the freedom of America, ours might have been the cry to the Joint Distribution Committee for help, in order to remain alive—a cry that **MUST** be answered by Jewish hearts in the 'free' countries of the world.

The need this year is greater than ever. In addition to Germany, Poland and Roumania, the J. D. C. must also render aid to our fellow-Jews in Austria. All who have, in the past, contributed to the J. D. C. may take pride in the work it is doing. Though we should like to detail some of the day-by-day work performed by its agencies—feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, and relieving the distress and misery of countless thousands of Jewish families in Central and Eastern Europe—space does not allow. **BUT**, mention **MUST** be made of its magnificent achievements in rehabilitating and reconstructing the lives of as many individuals as their finances (based on our contributions) will permit.

In this rebuilding of human lives, therefore, the Joint Distribution Committee is doing its noblest work. Where all else is destruction, demoralization, despair, the J. D. C. is **HOPE, SALVATION, NEW LIFE.**

We, in Ottawa, have been called upon to help. Our Campaign, which started off so hopefully six weeks ago, has lagged. It is to you, therefore, that we extend this appeal. If you have not so far been called upon by our teams, and you do wish to have a share in this holy work performed by the J.D.C., won't you please telephone either Mr. M. Loeb or Rabbi Margolis, who will arrange that your contribution will be called for. Please keep in mind that every dollar you make available to the J.D.C. will render help to those of our fellow-Jews who are still unfortunate enough to have to cry out for our help. Shall we, can we, refuse their plea?

L. Harry Goldman,

Secretary, Ottawa J.D.C. Campaign

## B'NAI BRITH BANQUET INSPIRING SUCCESS

Before a large gathering of guests and members of B'nai Brith, Judge A. Rose of Boston Mass. installed the executives of Ottawa Lodge No. 885 of B'nai Brith and the Ottawa Ladies' Auxiliary No. 62. The chief feature of the evening was the installation of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Gittleston as presidents of their respective lodges. This is the first occasion in the history of B'nai Brith that husband and wife are presidents of a B'nai Brith Lodge and a Ladies' Auxiliary. Ottawa knows of another such blessed combination of husband and wife in Mr. and Mrs. Freiman, one being head of Canadian Zionism, the other president of Canadian Hadassah.

In an address delivered following the installation, Judge Rose stated that as soon as circumstances permit, the anti-defamation league of the B'nai Brith will take steps to combat anti-Semitic propaganda being spread in Canada by the Montreal fascists.

The speaker also paid tribute to Mr. A. J. Freiman as president of Canadian Zionism. He urged the members of the local lodge to support Zionism, in that B'nai Brith had found that Eretz Israel was the only haven for refugees and that Palestine was the spiritual home of the Jew dwelling in Canada and the United States. Rabbi Margolis thanked the speaker, who was introduced by Mr. B. Goldfield K.C.

Presentations were made by Mr. S. J. Ritt to the retiring president Dr. Edward Gallay, while Mrs. E. Gittleston, president-elect of the Ladies' Auxiliary made a presentation to Mrs. M. J. Isaacs, former president of the Auxiliary. Mrs. Isaacs received a handsome silver tray.

Members of the 1938 executive are as follows: Edward Gittleston, Dr. Sam Mirsky, T. P. Metrick, Herman Roodman, Dr. Wilfred Gallay, Jach Feiner, S. J. Ritt, Harry Gould, Nap. Kapinsky, S. B. Cohen, M. J. Isaacs, and Barney Weiss.

Members of the Women's Executive are: Mesdames E. Gittleston, F. H. Sinclair, M. Zagerman, M. A. Venis, M. Levinson, S. B. Cohen, J. Brill, M. Klein, S. Swedlove, M. Loeb, F. Finestone, B. Goldfield, D. Epstein and M. J. Isaacs.

## COMMUNAL NOTE-BOOK

by Mem Shin Hay.

Gut Yom-Tov. L'shanah Haba-ah Bi-Yerusholayim!

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Mr. S. Lipson of 523 Bank St. was delighted beyond words to learn through the medium of an advertisement in a newspaper, that his sister is alive. Mr. Lipson was under the impression that she had passed away in Poland some fifteen years ago. Apparently it pays to advertise.

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We suppose there is no need to remind the first-born son in each family that he is to attend the morning services on Friday April 15th. Failure to attend means that he will have to fast the entire day. There is something about this custom that is strange and fascinating, particularly when it is recalled that it goes back for thousands of years.

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Ogier Preteceille, general secretary of the Spanish War Committee, in an interview with Mem Shin Hay, told of the valour and fortitude of the Jewish soldiers fighting for democracy in Spain. He pointed out that there was an all-Jewish Battallion which the Spanish government maintains, feeds kosher food, and insists that they keep the tenets of Judaism. Mr. Preteceille stated that 'the Jewish soldiers in Spain were making Spain, and through it the world, safe for democracy'. The soldiers come principally from Poland and Eretz Israel.

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The Jewish community were pleasantly surprised to learn that the late William Renaud, prominent hotel-owner and Sportsman, left one thousand dollars to the Ottawa Hebrew Benevolent Society. As far as our knowledge serves us this is the greatest single bequest ever left to any Jewish organization in Ottawa.

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Communal Note-Book will not appear along with the rest of the features in the Bulletin until Shevuoth. Here's hoping that each and everyone will spend a happy Passover. Until Shevuoth—Shalom!



## TALMUD TORAH MESSAGE

Inspired by the phenomenal progress made by our Talmud Torah during the past 15 months; enthused by the moral and financial support of the community at large; and encouraged by the widespread confidence in our methods of instruction and the general curricula of our institution; the Board is happy in knowing that its policy thus far has the approval of our community. With this attained, the entire Board now is determined to justify that faith by striving and working for a still bigger and more improved Talmud Torah.

To this end, and through the direct assistance and co-operation of our Principal and teachers, we are launching a city-wide campaign for new pupils, as our new program also includes a new beginner's class, and, possibly, a kindergarten. To those parents, therefore, who have children of Talmud Torah age, whether still extreme youngsters or of older years, we wish to suggest a hopeful and purposeful feature of Talmud Torah—one that in itself justifies all our endeavours and aspirations—namely, the instilling in the hearts and minds of our little girls and boys, a love and devotion to Talmud Torah. It is significant that after a day at school, they come, eagerly and happily, to the Talmud Torah, to learn and absorb the true meaning of our rich, spiritual heritage. Where and what can match this form of bringing up our children as truthful and conscientious Jews, fully prepared, spiritually and culturally, (so essential to our unity of purpose), to face the grave and perplexing problems which threaten our honour and pride, our very security as Jews and human beings?

It is time for self-analysis and deeper-thinking. Undoubtedly, one of the ablest and strongest of our weapons against those who seek to destroy us is, and always will be, Jewish education and enlightenment. The place to give your children a thorough and progressive Jewish education is our Talmud Torah. Register your children now.

M. LOEB,

Chairman, Talmud Torah Board

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## BULLETIN SAYS AU REVOIR

The Ottawa Jewish Bulletin herewith informs its readers that there will be no more issues until Shevuoth, early in June. The Bulletin is grateful to its readers for their helpful cooperation and looks forward to a reunion in their homes on the next Festival. Shalom and le-hitra-ot.

## 'SHOMRIM' GROUP FORMED

Under the capable guidance of Messrs. Myer Drazin and Hyman Bessin, Senior Advisors to the Shomrim Group, the Junior branch of the Hapoel Hamizrachi was formed. The meeting took place at the home of Miss Bertha Bessin on Sunday evening, April 3rd. During the course of the meeting the aims and origin of the Hapoel Hamizrachi movement were outlined by Mr. Drazin and Mr. Bessin.

Election of officers ensued and the following were selected:

President, Miss Esther Cohen; Vice-President, Morrie Krantzberg; Secretary, Miss Esther Rabin; Treasurer, Issie Steinberg.

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## MAZOL TOV

To Mrs. R. Bessin, 425 Rideau Street, whose daughter, Nettie, was engaged last Sunday, to Mr. Irwin Saloman, son of Mrs. David Saloman, of Montreal.

To Mr. and Mrs. A. Dworkin, 256 Rideau Street, whose daughter, Clara, was married last Sunday, to Mr. Morris Schwartz, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Schwartz, of Ottawa. We extend our sincerest wishes for much joy and happiness to the young couple.

To Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shinder, 77 Charlotte Street, who were blessed with the arrival of a daughter, last Saturday afternoon. May her dear parents derive great joy from their daughter.

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## NOTE OF THANKS

The Junior Congregation wishes to offer expressions of deepest thanks to Mrs. Loeb, Mr. Dave Mirsky, and Mr. M. Held for their kind contributions toward making last Sabbath's Kiddush a success. The Congregation will discontinue Sabbath Services in the Talmud Torah until after Pesach.

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## B'NAI BRITH WOMEN'S TEA

The Women's Auxiliary of B'nai Brith, Lodge No. 62, will hold a Passover Bridge and Tea, on Monday afternoon, April 18th, 1938, at the residence of Mrs. A. Marcus, 245 Chapel Street, at three o'clock. Hostesses, Mesdames Sybil Isaacs, Esther Eisenstadt, Chaya Venis, Sonya Gittleston, and Ethel Brill, have arranged a most enjoyable event. Arrange your tables early and make this occasion successful.

## A. Z. A. SABBATH

### INSPIRING PROGRAM

Several hundred people, mainly young men and women, filled the Agudath Achim Synagogue, Rideau Street, last Friday evening, to inaugurate the annual A.Z.A. Sabbath. Rabbi Margolis presided and Cantor J. Rabin conducted the program of Z'miroth.

The opening prayer was rendered by Herbert Wolf, President of A.Z.A. Brief addresses on aspects of A.Z.A. and Jewish youth were made by Herman S. Roodman, Joseph Lief and Israel Shinder. Max Gornis, President of the Laurentian Region of A.Z.A., gave the closing benediction.

The final address of the evening was delivered by Rabbi Margolis, who exhorted parents to see the value of communal affiliation as it affects the lives of their children. The Rabbi praised the work of A.Z.A. and B'nai Brith and all its branches in Ottawa, and expressed the hope that they will continue to advance the cultural and spiritual life of the community, and merit uninterrupted success.

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## JEWISH THEATRE GUILD ENTERED IN CITY FESTIVAL

The Jewish Theatre Guild have entered the Ottawa City Drama Festival, which will be held at the Little Theatre, April 28th, 29th and 30th. Second act of the 'Kibitzer' has been selected as the Theatre Guild's entry. The cast is composed of Dr. Sam Mirsky, Bert Katz, Edward Gittleston, Harry Gould and Abe Levi. David Slover is the director and Norman Mirsky, stage manager.

Nine organizations have signified their intentions of participating including the two winners in the United Church festival, Anglican Church festival and Drama League, workshop festival. One play has been entered by the Ottawa University, St. Patrick's Drama Society and the Theatre Guild.

The Theatre Guild's entry will open the Festival on Thursday night at 8.30 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from Theatre Guild members at 35c per evening or a strip ticket at \$1.00 for the entire festival.

Annual meeting of the Guild will be held Tuesday, April 19th in the Talmud Torah. Election of officers will constitute the business.